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ABSTRACT

This book is a guide to teaching orientation and mobility (O&M) skills to students with visual impairments in the public schools. The first chapter offers an overview of the nature and responsibilities of the orientation and mobility specialist and explains the field's legal underpinnings. Next comes a look at O&M in relation to the school year with sample forms to help the O&M specialist to organize student and scheduling information. Chapter 3 offers guidelines for the referral and assessment process and sample forms. Chapter 4 focuses on the Individualized Education Program (IEP), including preparing for the IEP meeting, writing IEPs, and the IEP meeting itself. The following chapter considers approaches to teaching O&M. Chapter 6 considers O&M in the domains of home, school, and community. A chapter on teaching techniques focuses on teaching the fundamental techniques of orientation and cane travel. Chapter 8 considers the special problems of students with multiple disabilities and offers techniques for working with students who are visually impaired and also use wheelchairs or have communication disorders. The final chapter considers professional and strategic issues. These include legal and safety issues, working with the support team, the teacher as student, and the well-equipped teacher. A resource guide is attached, as is a checklist of O&M instructional areas and related objectives. (Contains approximately 32 references.) (DB)

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